

Bread and Puppet Theater

THIS IS



Bread and Puppet Theater

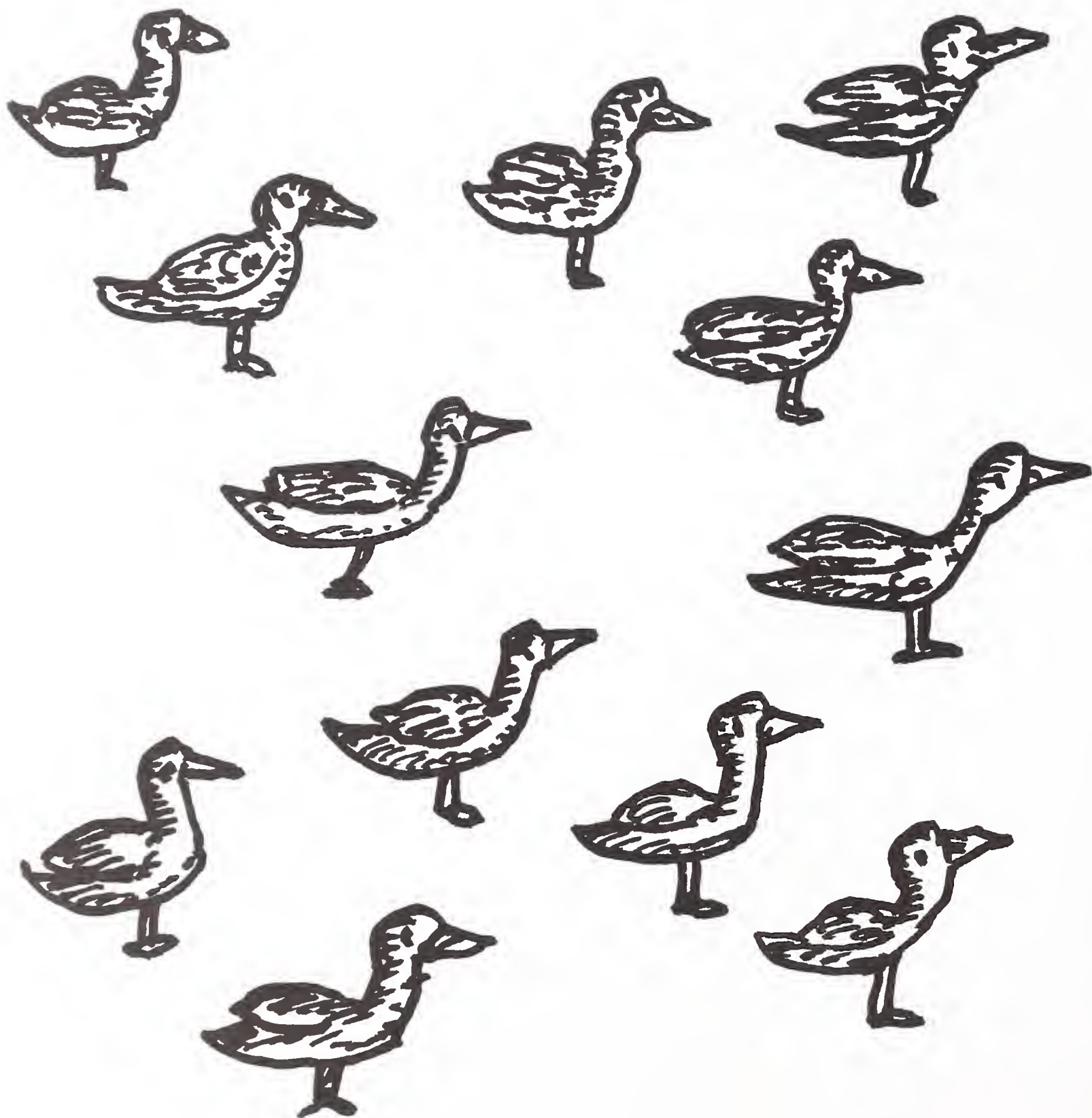
THIS IS



**a play written and illustrated by Peter Schumann
published by The Janus Press in Newark Vermont**

This publication was assisted by a grant from the Literature Program of the National Endowment for the Arts in Washington DC, a federal agency. Several quotations are taken from 13 DAYS, A Memoir of the Cuban Missile Crisis, by Robert F. Kennedy with the permission of the publisher W.W. Norton and Co Inc, NY NY. Copyright © 1971-1969 by W. W. Norton and Co Inc. Copyright © 1980 by Bread and Puppet Theater

Woman **At this moment
in history let us remember
the Cuban Missile
Crisis of 1962**





Scene 1 The people of America are asleep

Chorus sings **See!**

Man **Dark birds fly over their faces**

Scene 2



Trumpets **Ah!**

Man **Here are chief characters of the
World in 1962**

Trumpets **Ta-ta!**

Drum **Boom! Boom!**

Man **The President of the US, the Chief
of the CIA, the Secretary of Defense,
the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the President
of the Enemies**

Trumpets **Bravo!**

Scene 3



Man **The CIA informs the President about evidence of a Soviet missile base construction in Cuba**

Woman **Yes**

President **Ah!**

Door **Knock-knock**

President **Come in**

CIA **Thank you**

President **How are you how is your wife how is your mother-in-law**

**how is your daughter how is every-
thing how is your pupdog?**

CIA **I am fine my pupdog is fine my
mother-in-law is fine my daughter
is fine everything is fine**

Man **Now the information will be
transferred from the mouth of the
CIA to the ears of the President**

President **Silence**

CIA **Whisper**

President **Silence**

CIA **Whisper**

President **Silence**

CIA **Whisper**

President **Exclamation**

CIA **Silence**

President **Exclamation**

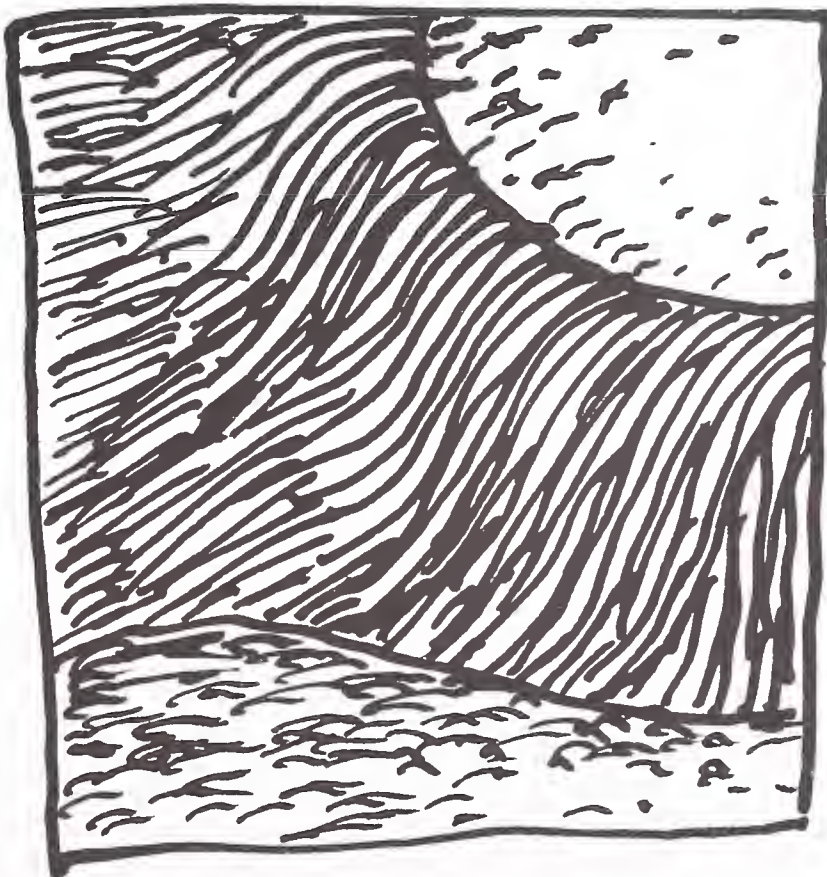
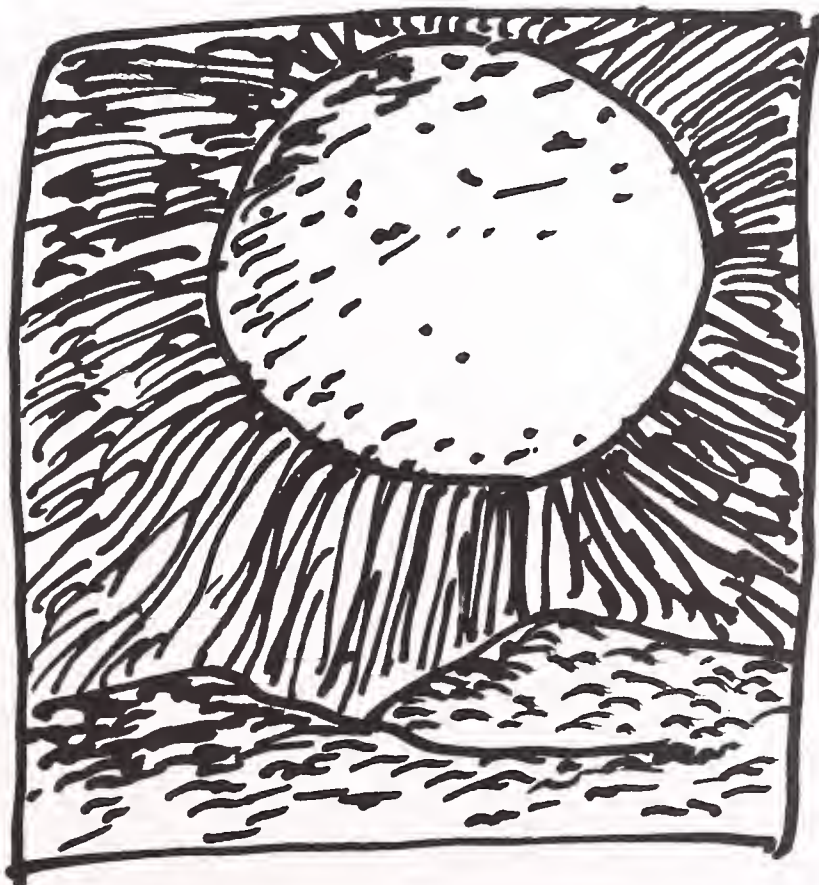
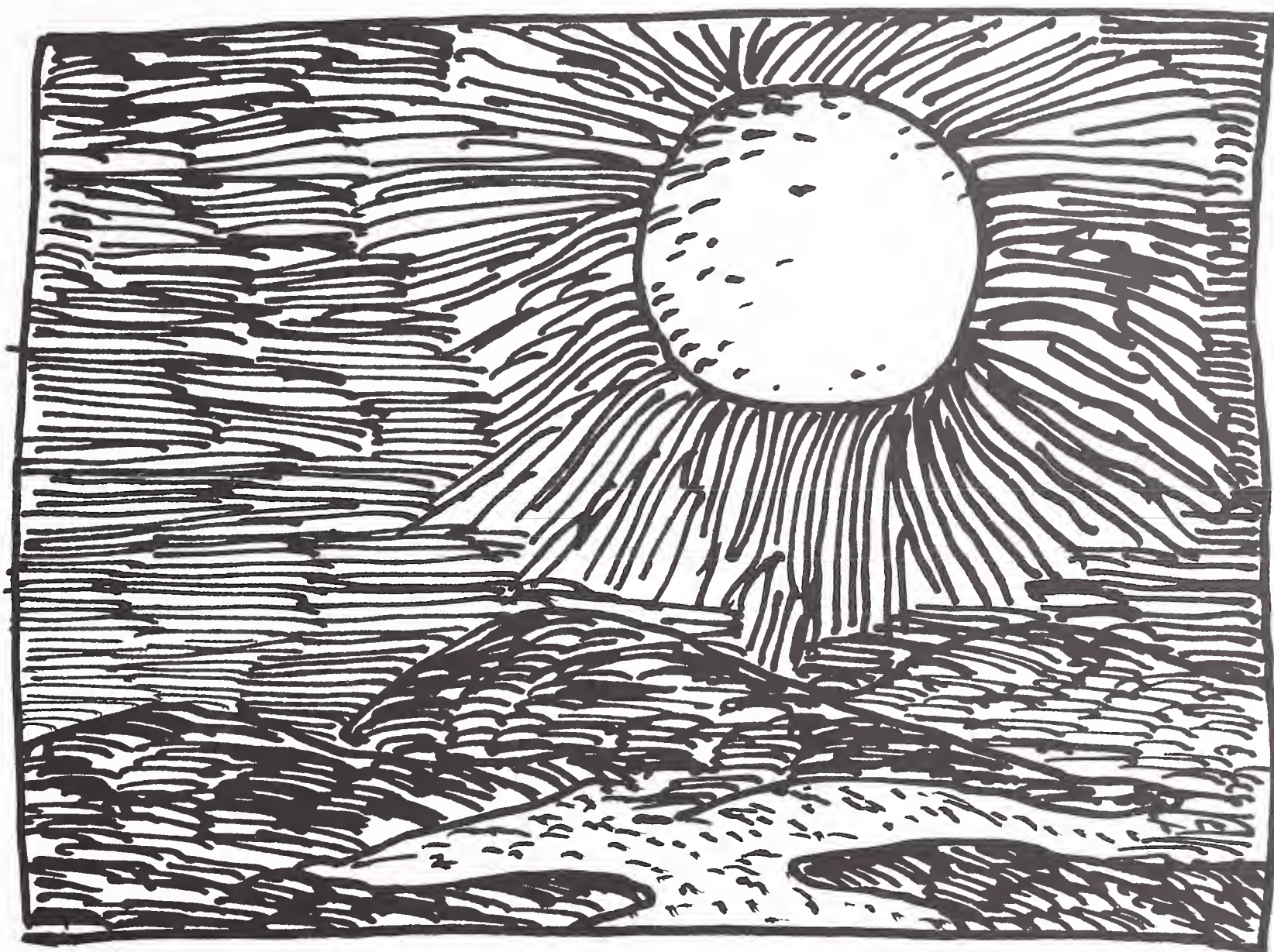
CIA **Silence**

President **Exclamation**

CIA **Silence**



Woman See the sun



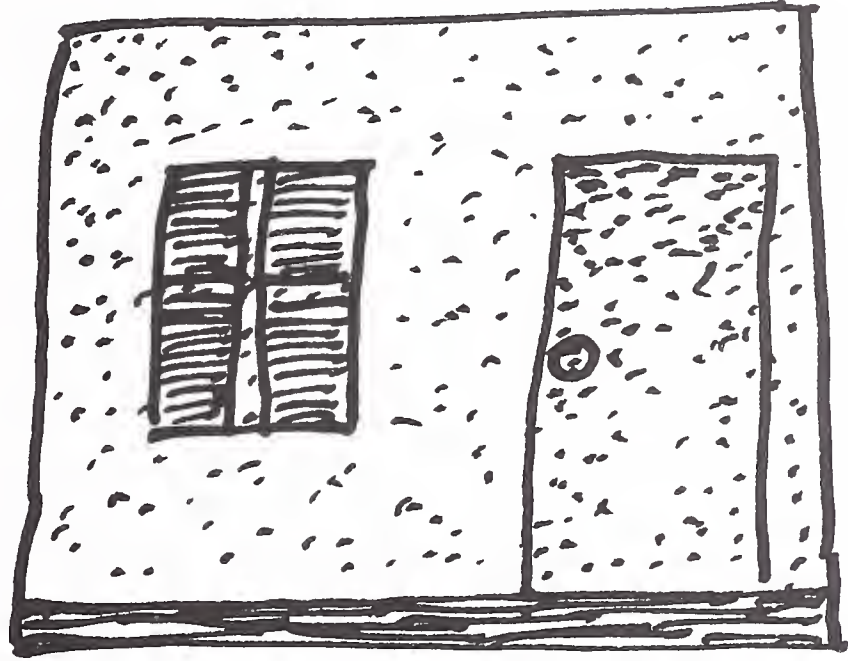
Scene 4 The people of America are asleep



Chorus **Sings**

Man **Dark birds fly over their faces**

Scene 5 The Cabinet Room at the White House



CIA **No doubt about it**

Drum **Yes**

Joint Chiefs of Staff **Unanimous in calling for immediate military action**

General Curtis Lemay **I argue strongly that a military attack is essential**

Dean Acheson **Responsibility**

Drum **Boom**

Dean Acheson **Protect the security**

Drum **Boom**

Dean Acheson **United States**

Drum **Boom**

Dean Acheson **Whole free World**

Drum **Boom**

Dean Acheson **Means** destroying the
missiles

Joint Chiefs **Airstrike**

Fiddles **Zee**

Joint Chiefs **Airstrike** airstrike airstrike
airstrike airstrike airstrike airstrike
airstrike airstrike airstrike airstrike

Drum **Boom** boom boom

Joint Chiefs **Airstrike** airstrike airstrike
airstrike airstrike airstrike airstrike
airstrike

Fiddles **Zee**

Joint Chiefs **Airstrike** airstrike airstrike
airstrike airstrike airstrike

Chorus **Sings**

Drum **Boom**

Joint Chiefs **Airstrike** against the mis-
siles only course

Chorus **Sings**

Man **Only** course

McNamara **Perhaps**

President **Perhaps**

McNamara **That course of action would
turn out to be inevitable but**

President **But**

Chorus **But**

McNamara **Let's not start with that**

President **Not** / **course**

Chorus **Not start**

President **Silence**

Joint Chiefs **Silence**

McNamara **Silence**

Chorus **Silence**

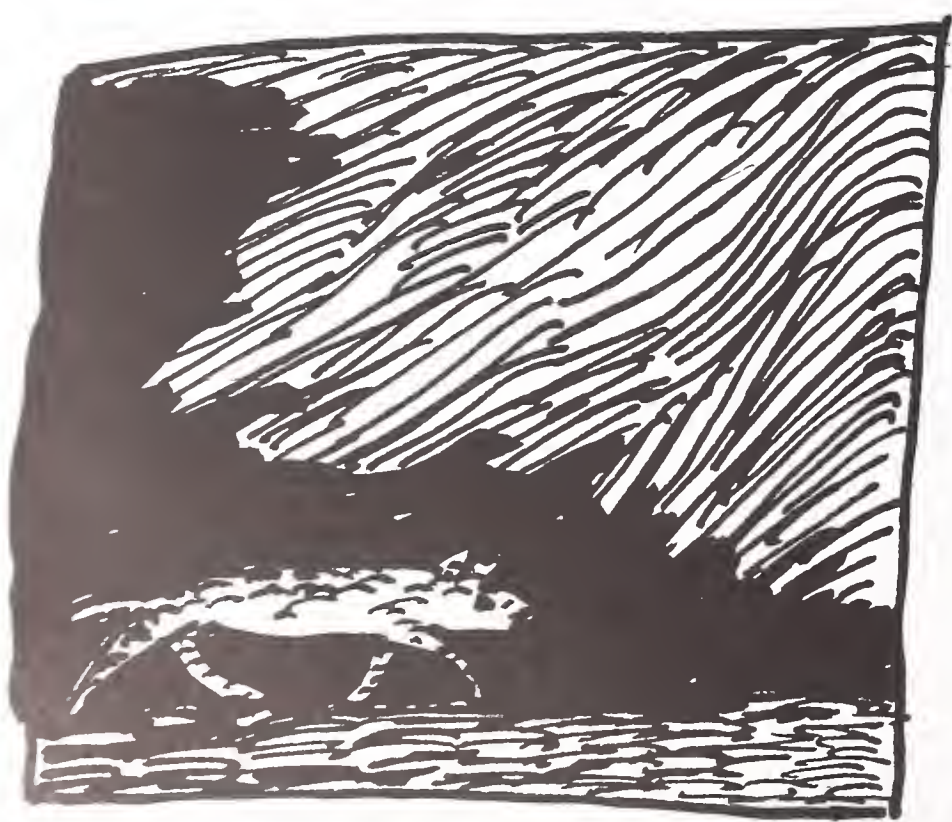
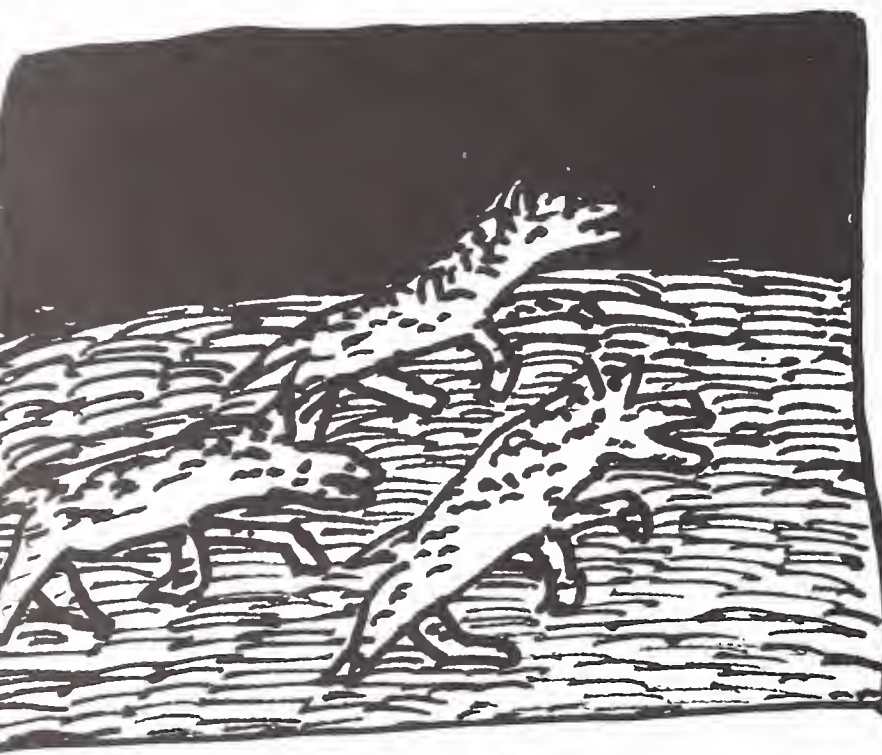
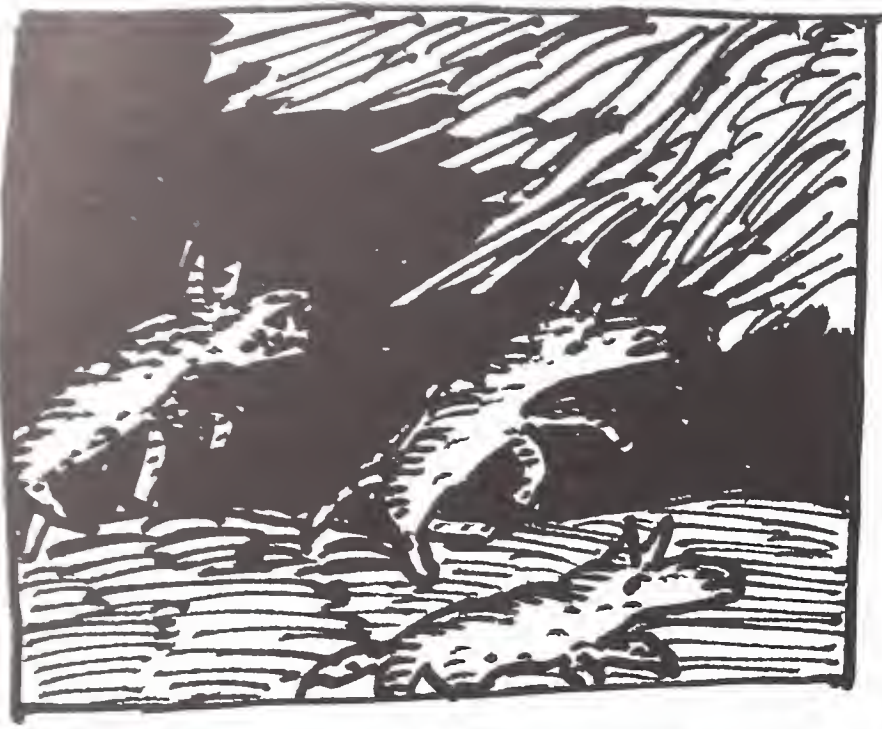
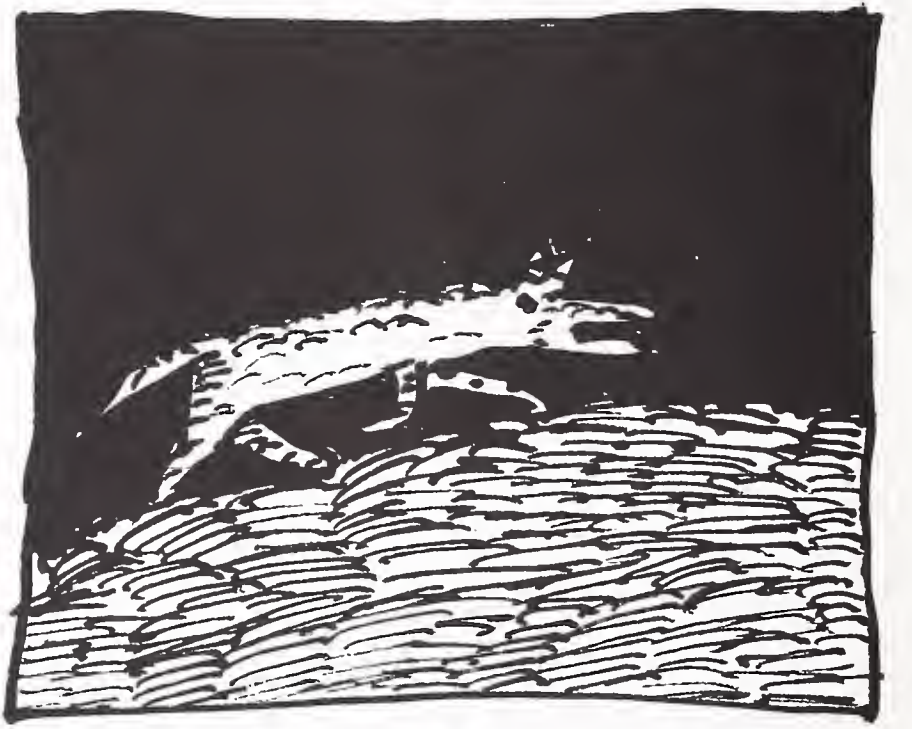
McNamara **I argue that a blockade is
limited pressure which can be in-
creased as the circumstances warrant.
It would be understood yet leave us
in control of events**

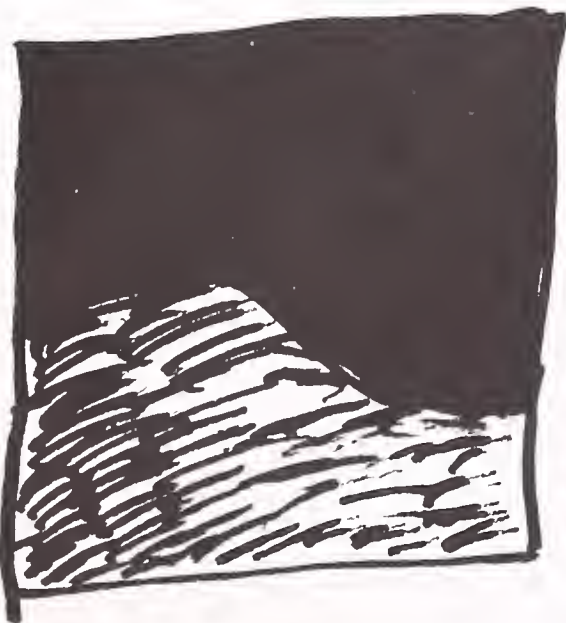
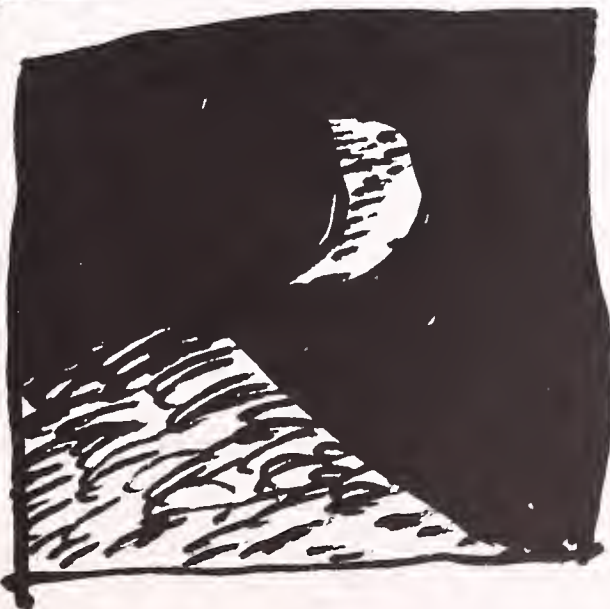
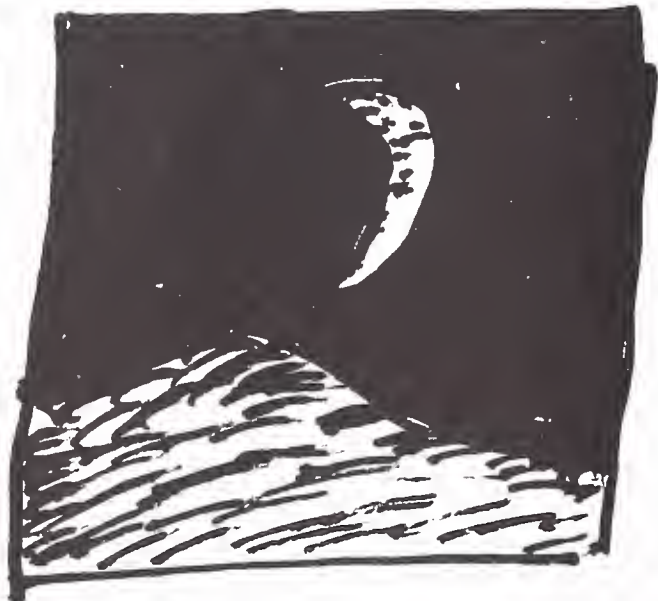
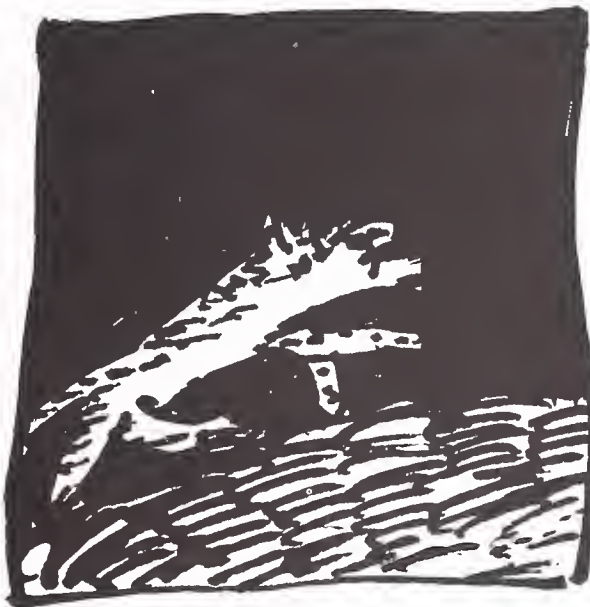
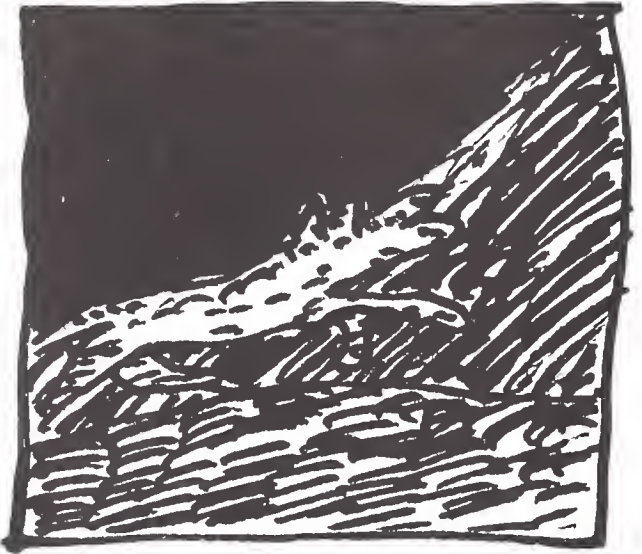
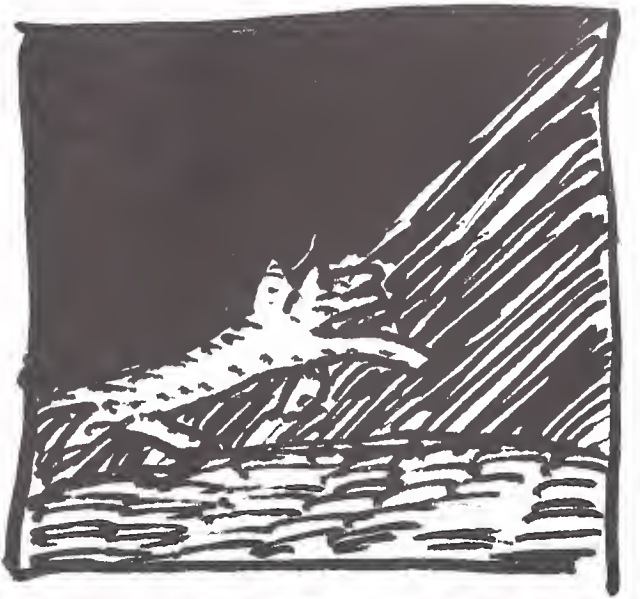
President **The blockade is the initial**

Joint Chiefs **Initial step** / **step**

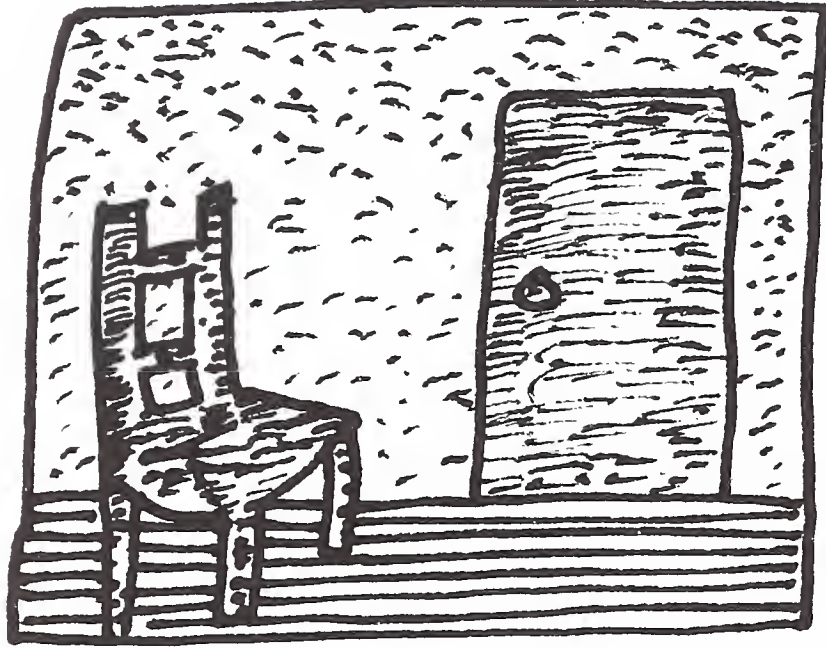
President **I order the Pentagon to
make all the preparations necessary
for further military action**







Scene 6 Empty cabinet room at The White House



Chair **Sings**

Table **Sings**

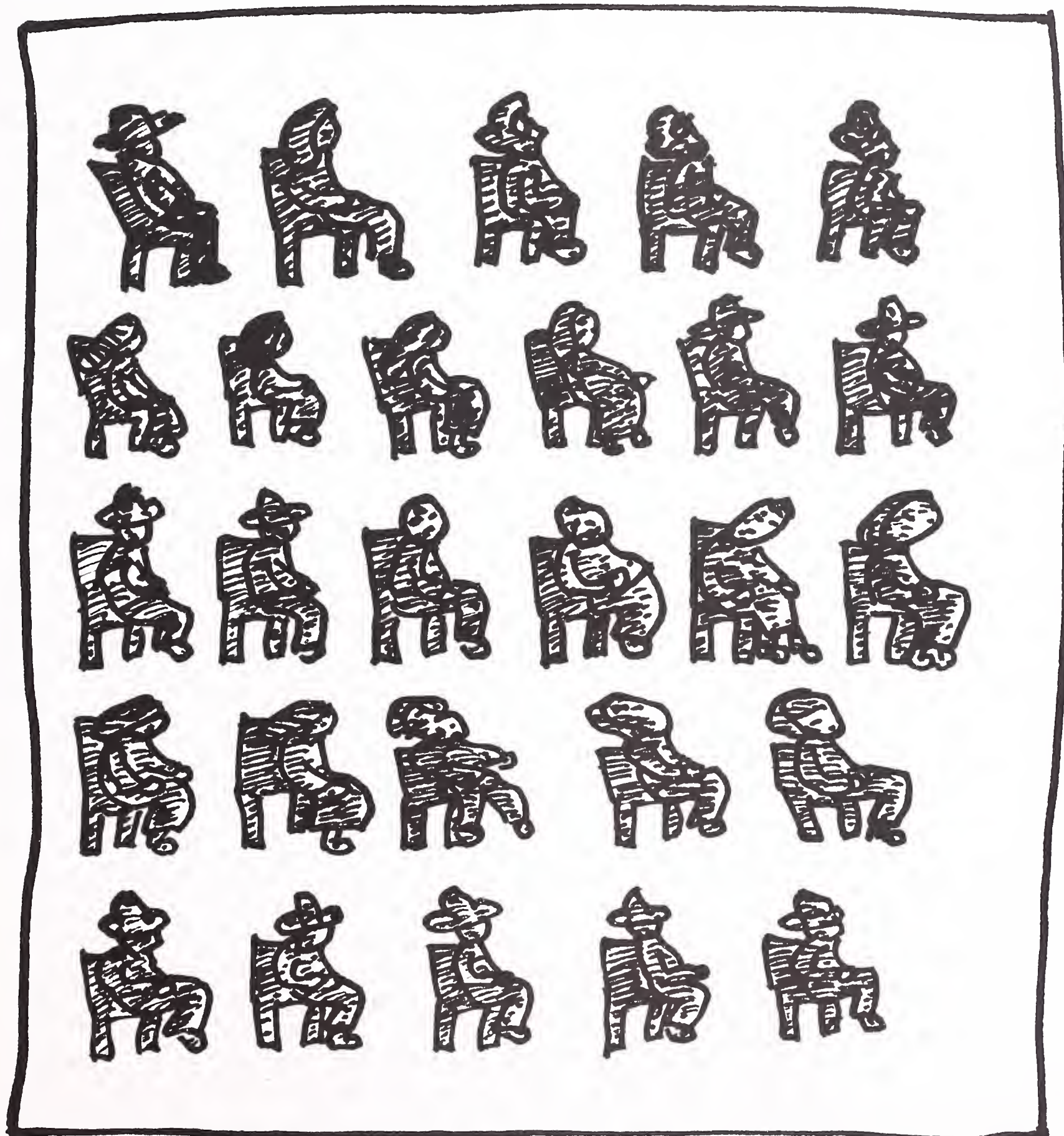
Door **Ah**

Window **Sings**

All chairs **Sing**



Scene 7 The President's speech to the nation



President **My fellow citizens this government as promised has maintained the closest surveillance of the Soviet military build-up on the island of Cuba. Within the past week unmistakable evidence has established the fact that a series of offensive missile sites is now in preparation on that imprisoned island. To halt this offensive build - up a strict quarantine on all offensive military equipment under shipment to Cuba is being initiated**



President This quarantine will be extended if needed to other types of cargo and carriers



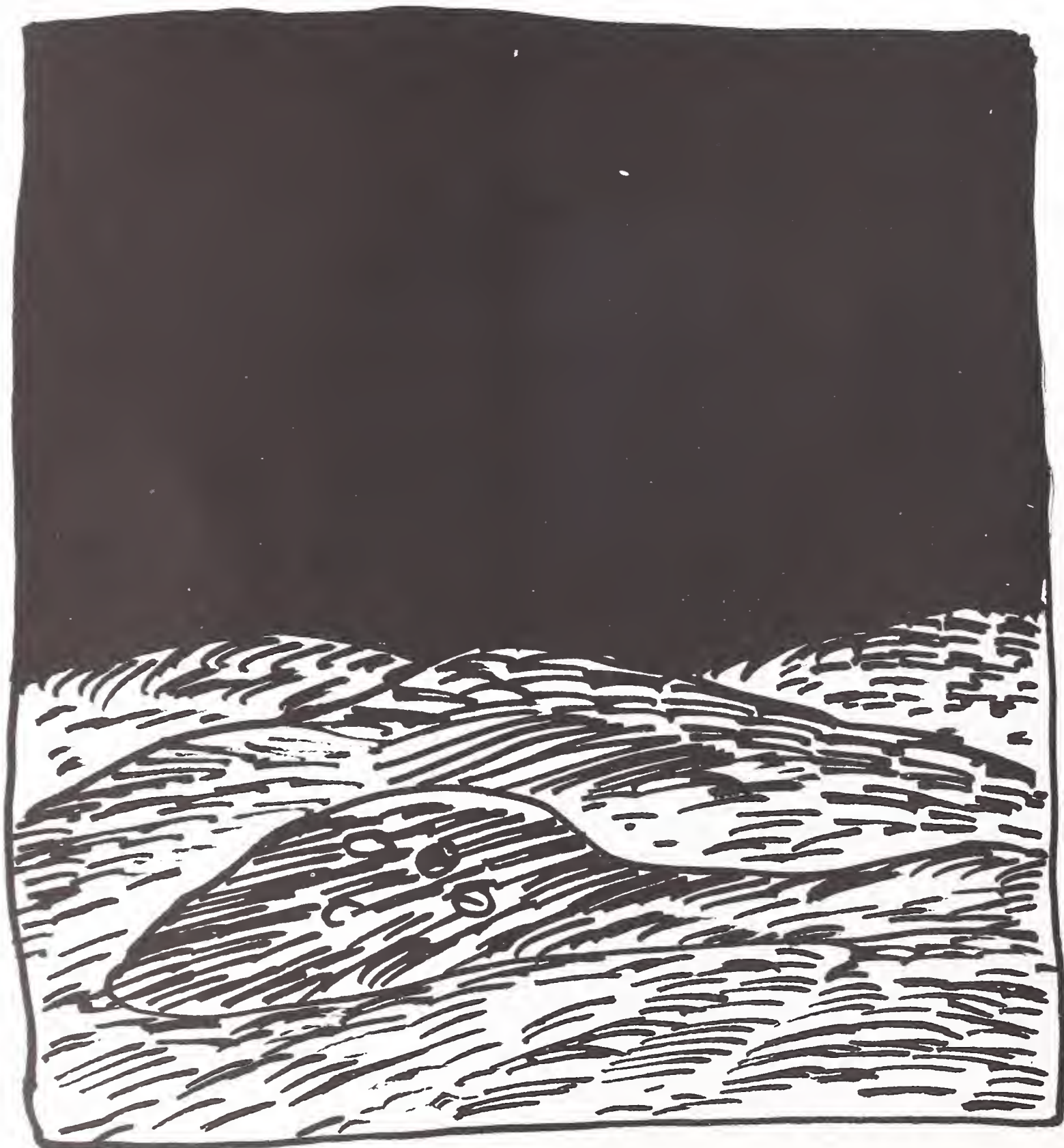
President Should these offensive military preparations continue further action will be justified. I have directed the armed forces to prepare for any eventualities



President **We will not prematurely or unnecessarily risk the costs of worldwide nuclear war in which even the fruits of victory would be ashes in our mouth**



President **But neither will we
shrink from that risk at any
time it must be faced**



Man **The Organisation of American States** unanimously supported the recommendation for a quarantine
General de Gaulle **It is exactly what I would have done**

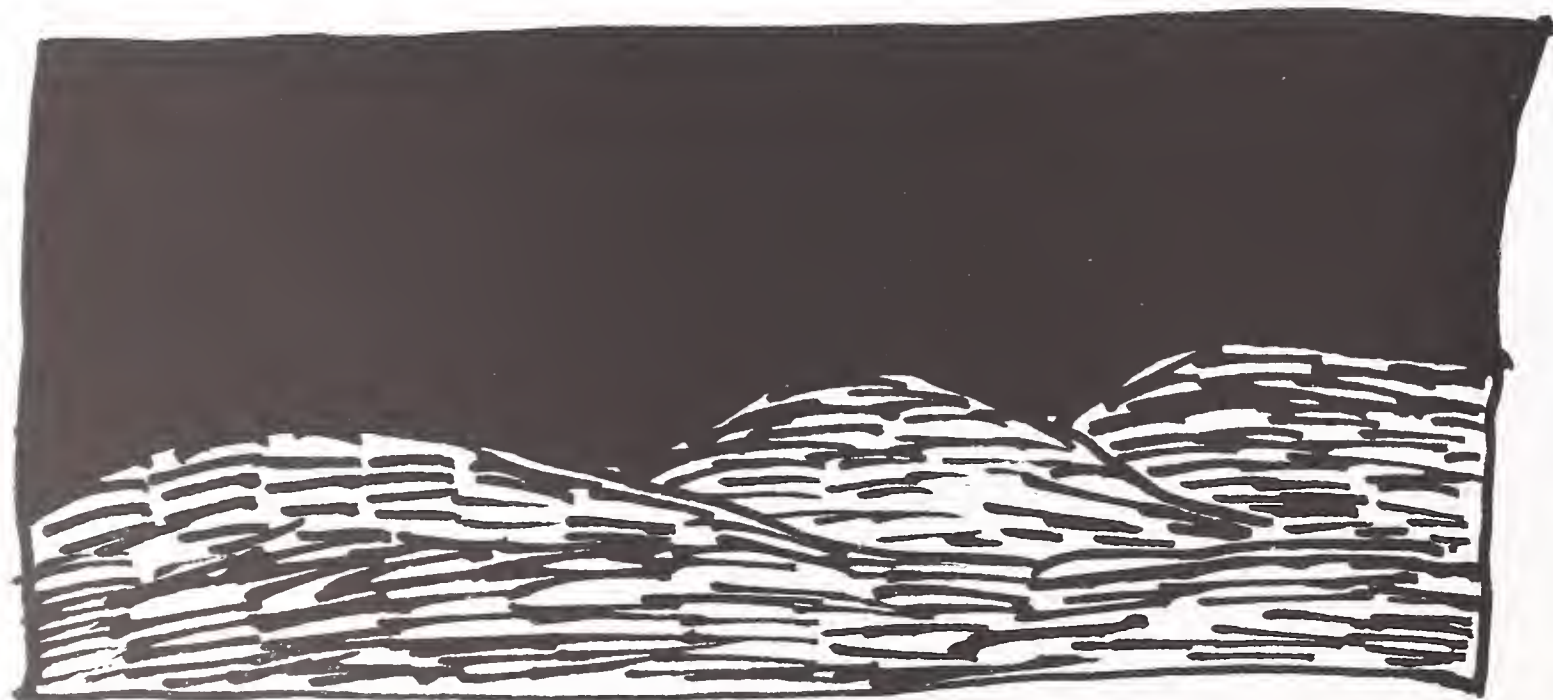
Macmillan **Complete support for the President at every stage**

Chancellor Adenauer **Support**

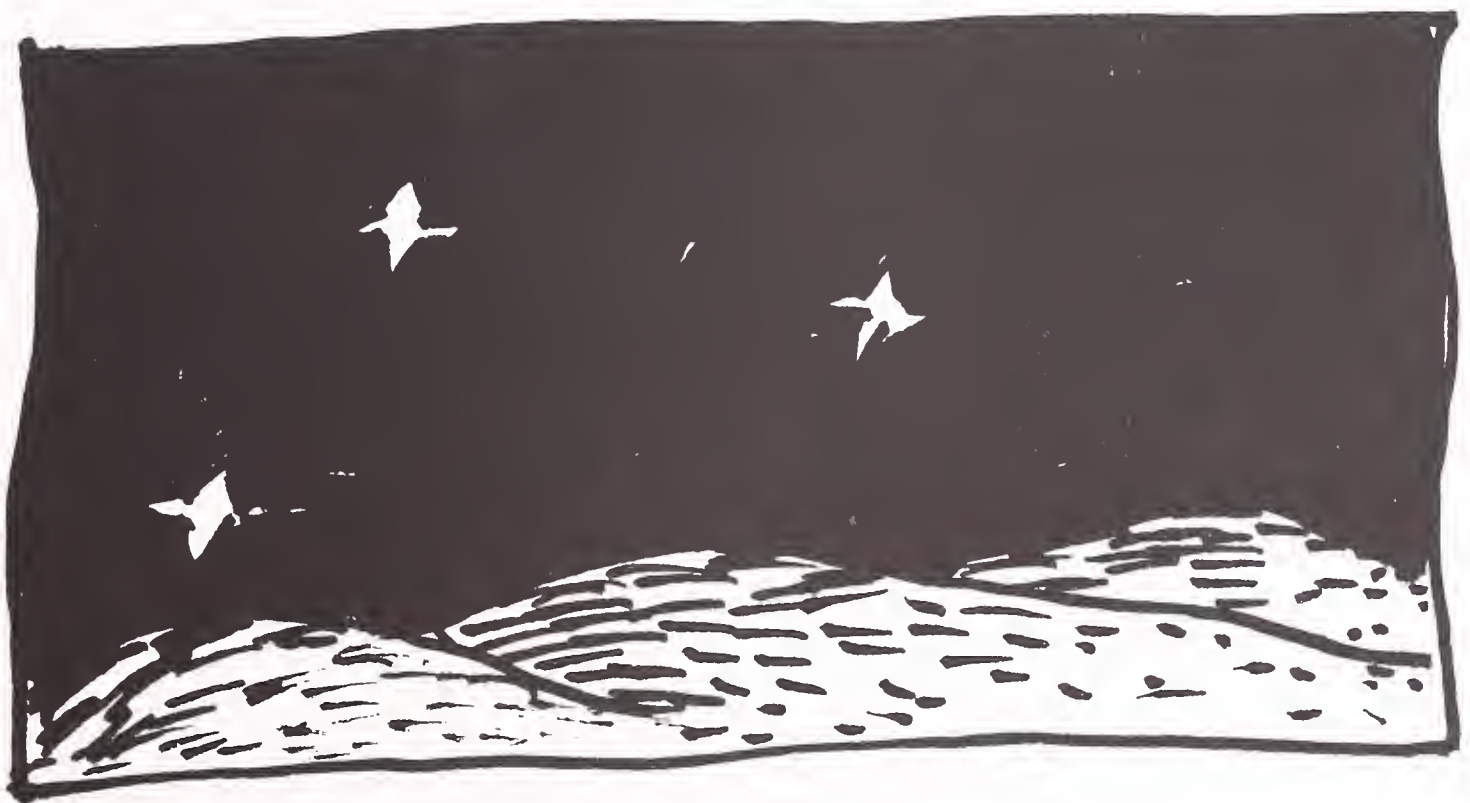
Woman **Yes**



Woman The navy deployed 180 ships into the Caribbean. The B-52 bomber force was ordered into the air fully loaded with atomic weapons. As one came down to land another immediately took its place in the air. The Strategic Air Command was dispersed to civilian landing fields around the country to lessen its vulnerability in case of attack. 250,000 men 2000 air sorties against the various targets in Cuba 90,000 marines and airborne in the invasion force



Man The thought that disturbed the President the most and that made the prospect of war much more fearful than it would otherwise have been was the specter of the death of the children of this country and all the world the young people who had no role who had no say who knew nothing even of the confrontation but whose lives would be snuffed out like everyone else's.



Scene 8



Man **The people of America
are asleep**

Woman **Dark birds fly over
their faces**

Scene 9

Intercom **The Soviet Ambassador is**
Attorney General **Good** / **here sir**

Drum **Boom**

Attorney General **We**

Drum **Boom**

Attorney General **Have to have a com-**

Drum **Boom** / **mitment**

Attorney General **By tomorrow**

Drum **Boom**

Attorney General **That those bases will**
be removed

Drum **Boom boom boom**

Attorney General **I am not giving you**
an ultimatum

Drum **Boom**

Attorney General **But**

Drum **Boom**

Attorney General **I am giving you an**
ultimatum

Drum **Boom boom boom**

Attorney General **You should understand**

Drum **Boom**

Attorney General **That if you do not
remove those bases**

Drum **Boom**

Attorney General **We will remove them**

Chorus **We**

Attorney General **We will remove them**

Chorus **We**

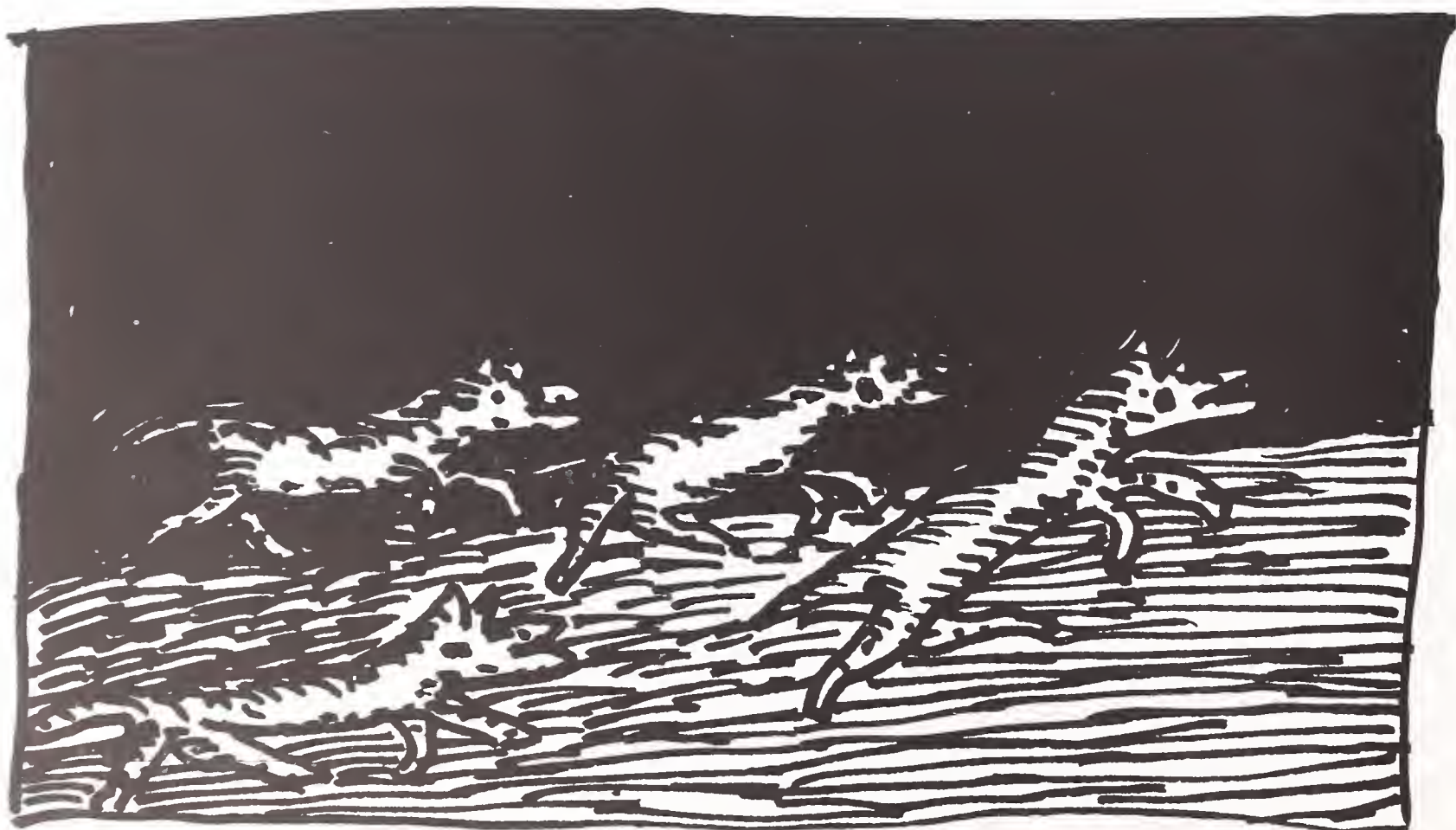
Chair **Shakes**

Window **Shakes**

Desk **Shakes**

Drum **Solo**

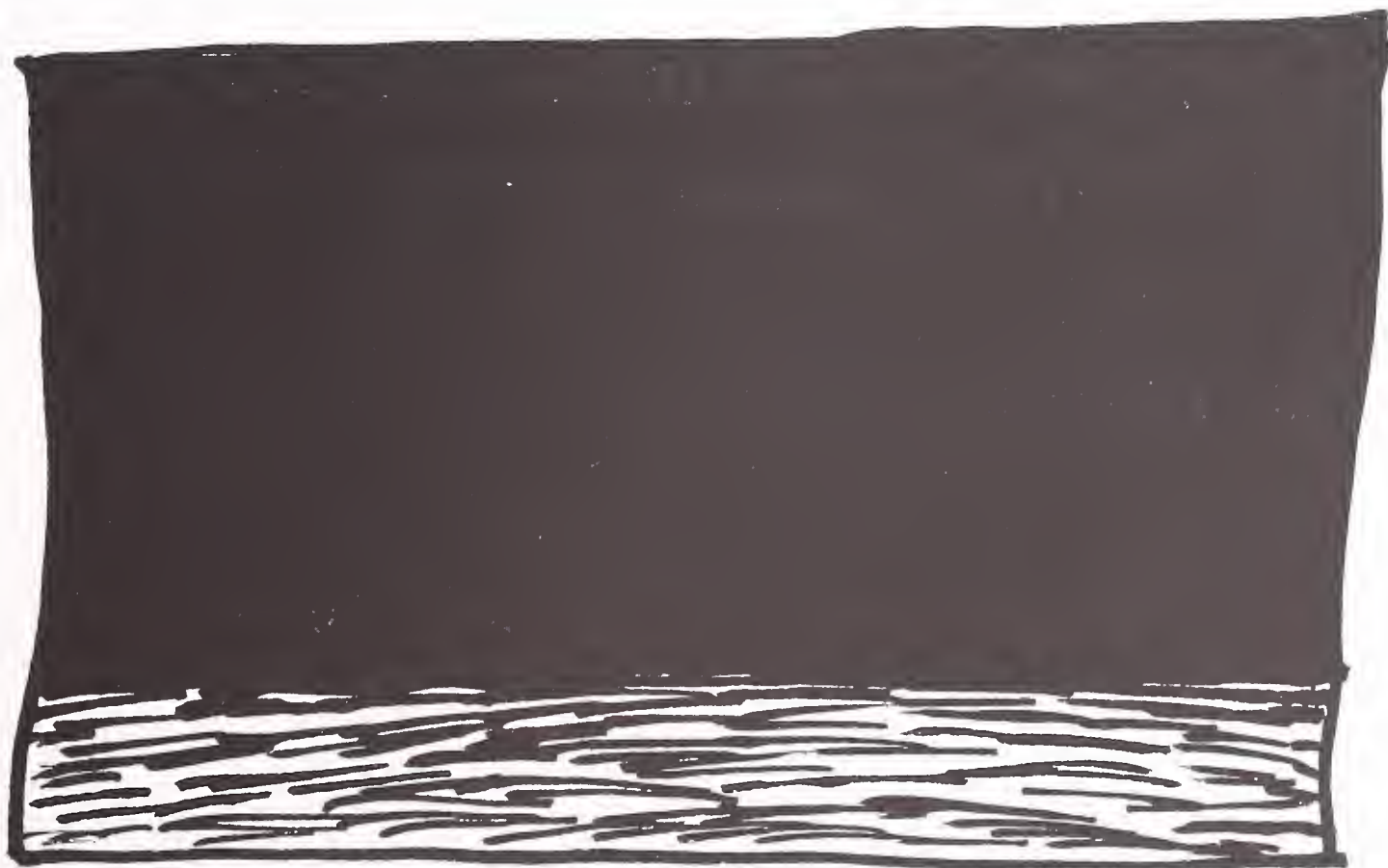
Chorus **Sings**



Scene 10

Empty room **The President was not optimistic. He ordered 24 troop-carrier squadrons of the Air Force Reserve to active duty. They would be necessary for an invasion. He had not abandoned hope. It was hope not an expectation. The expectation was a military confrontation by tuesday and possibly tomorrow**

Evening **No**



Scene 11

The World **Cities ships houses doors
schools kids kitchens old people of-
fices trucks palaces bicycles crowds
subways cats geraniums bakeries
gymnasiums hotels little people sec-
retaries cardrivers students relatives
kings poets waitresses babies**

Wind Sings

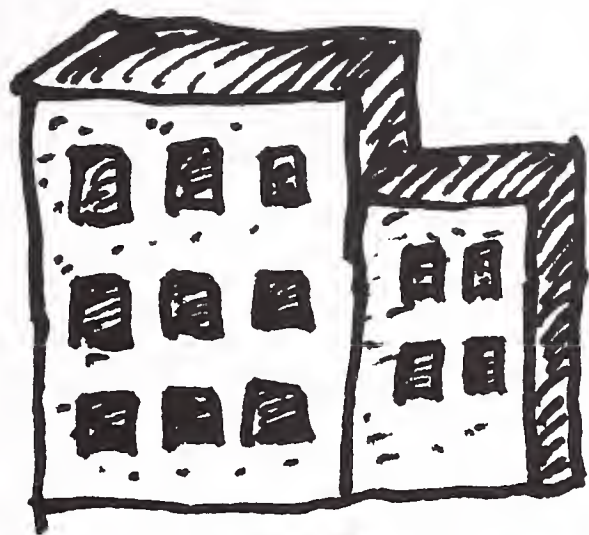
The World **Bluejays pinetrees starlings
butterflies clouds rivers thunder-
storms sunflowers potatofields birch
forests beaches fires rocks valleys
horses geese tigers**

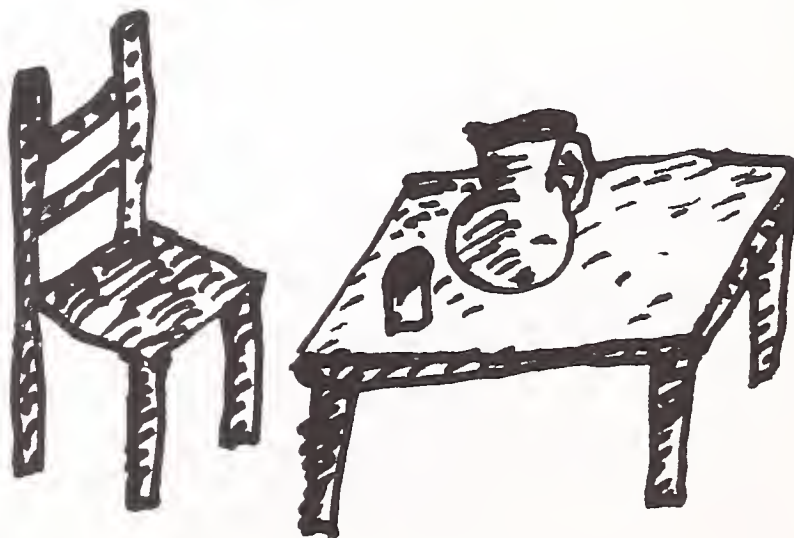
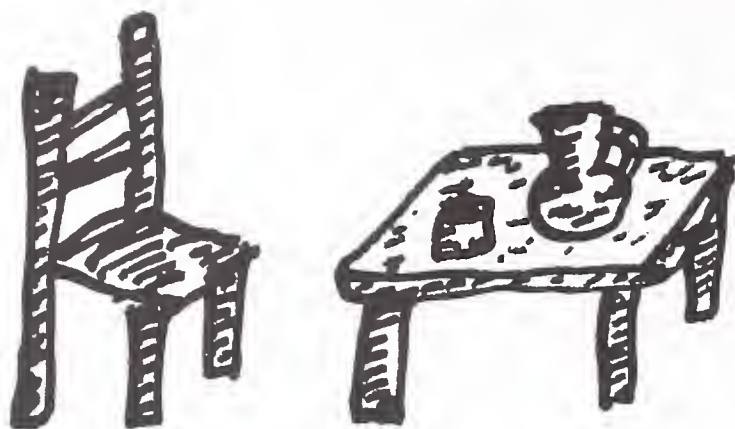
Wind Sings

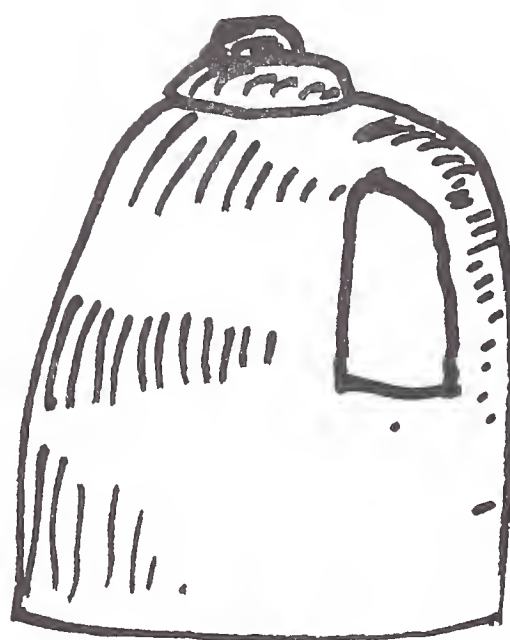
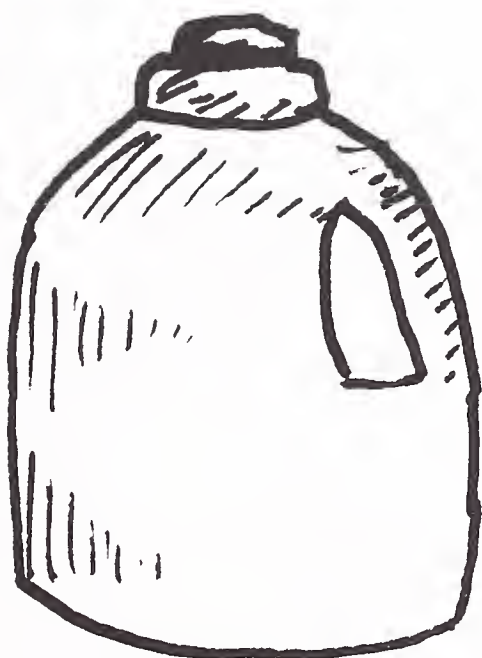
Snow Sings

Rain Sings

Cymbals **Wake up everybody! Wake
up! Wake up! Wake up! Wake up!**

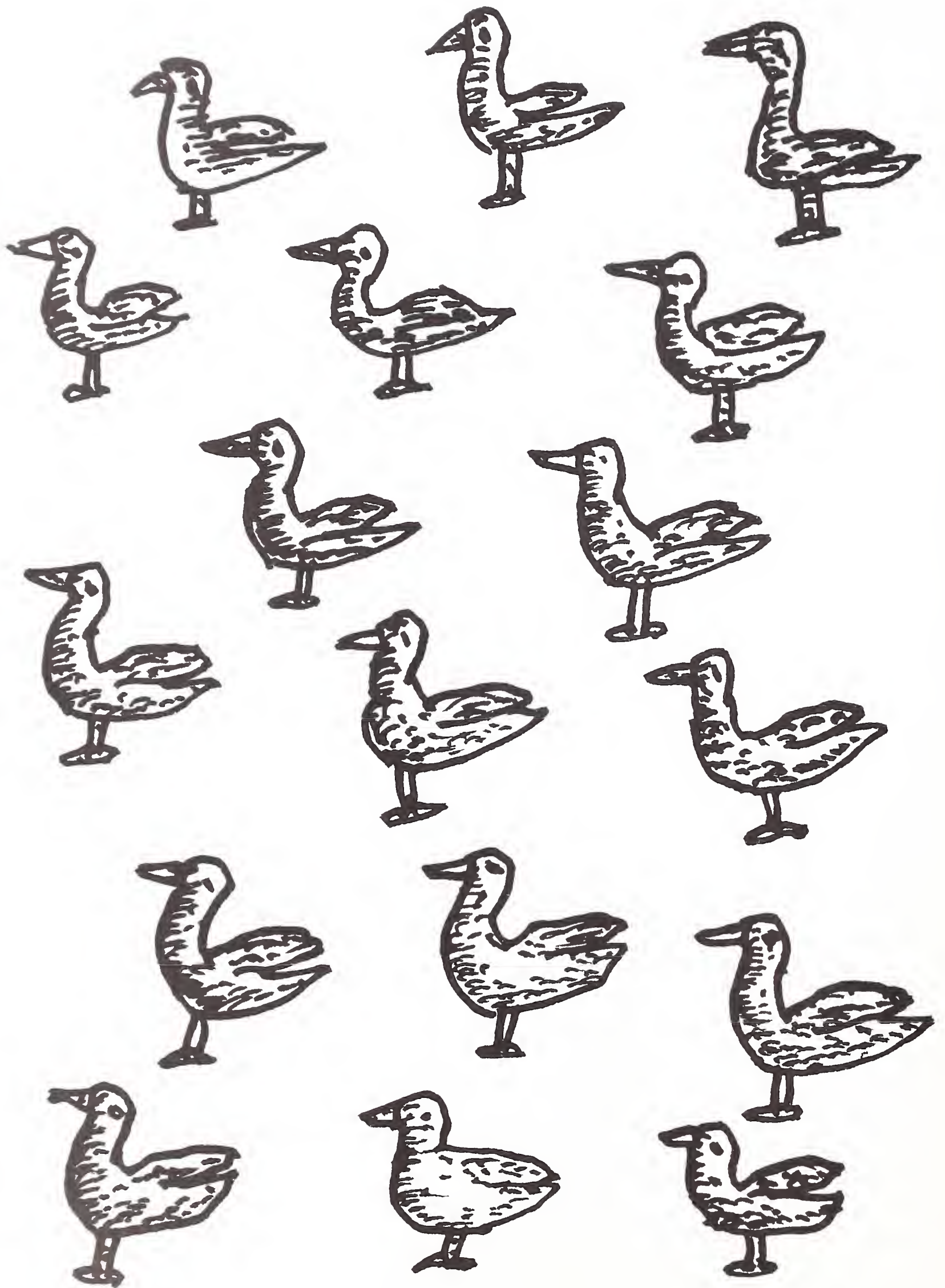


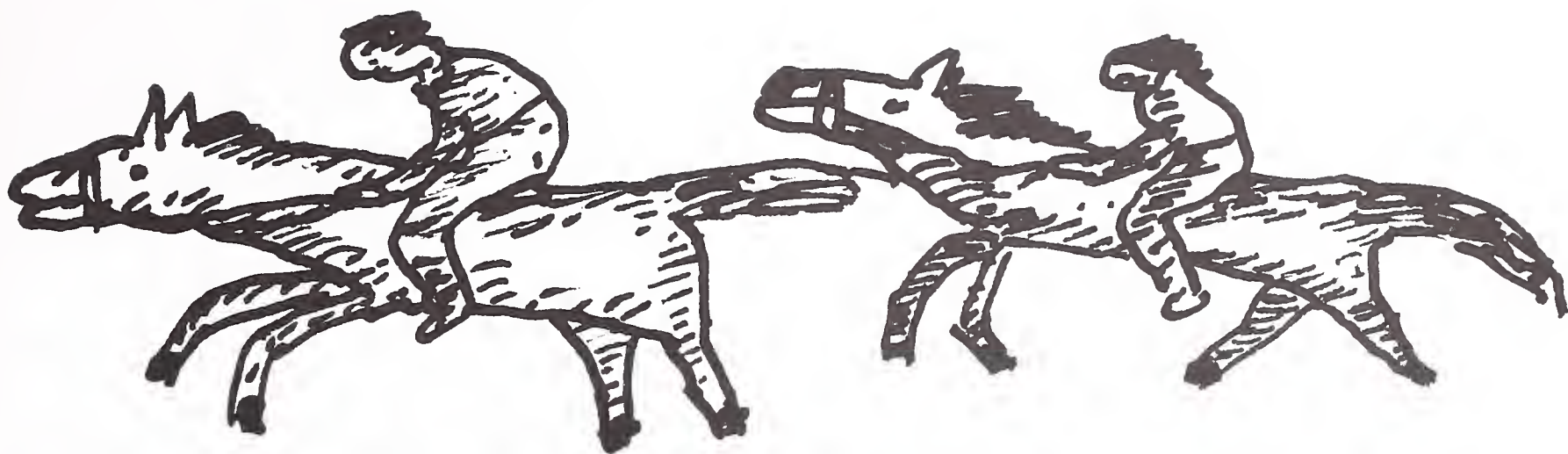


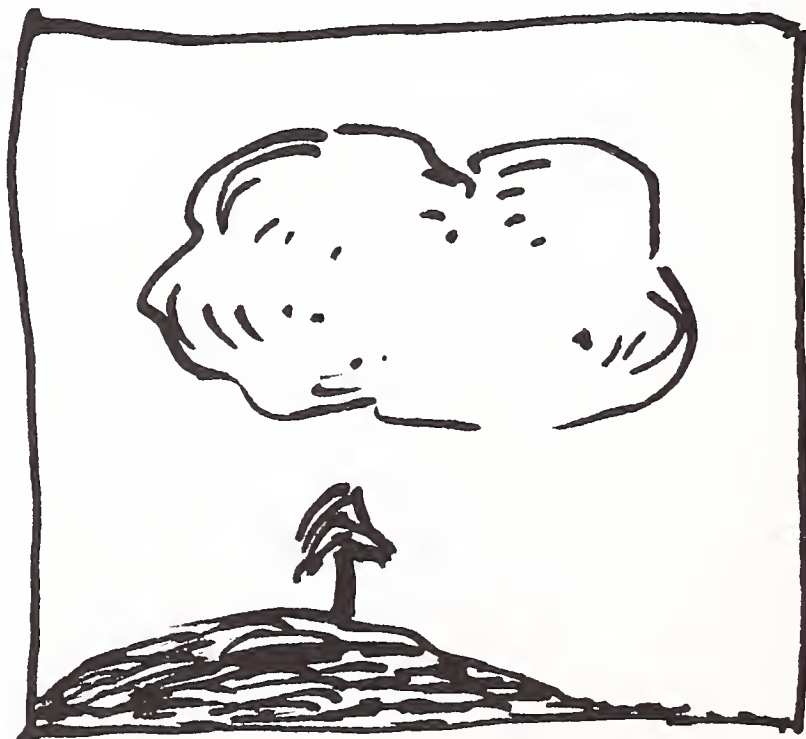
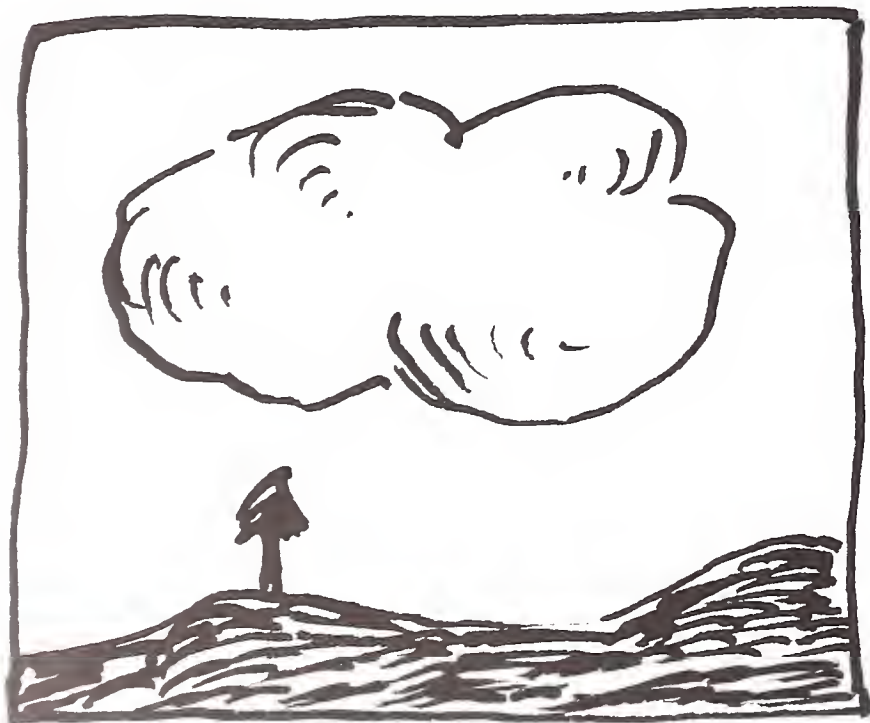
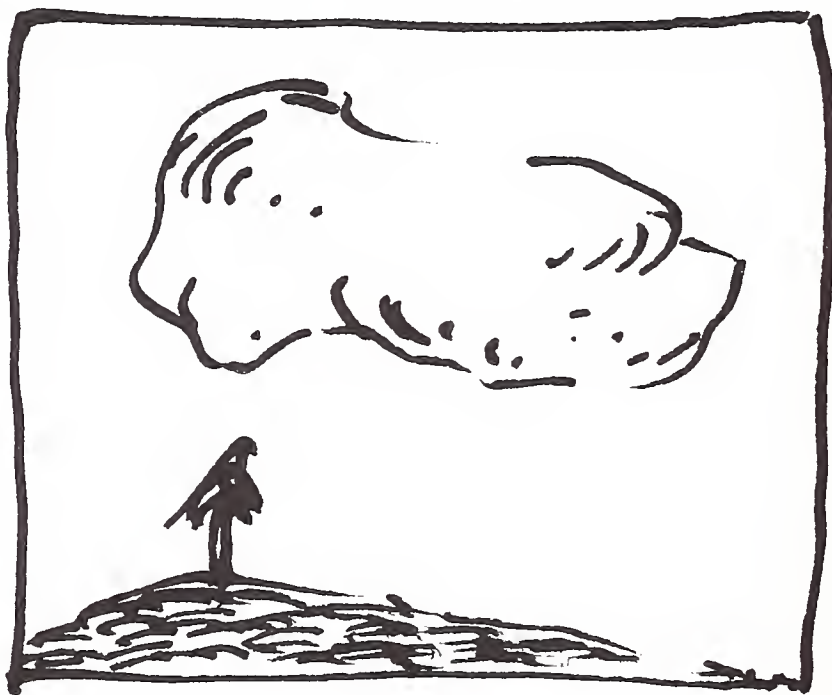
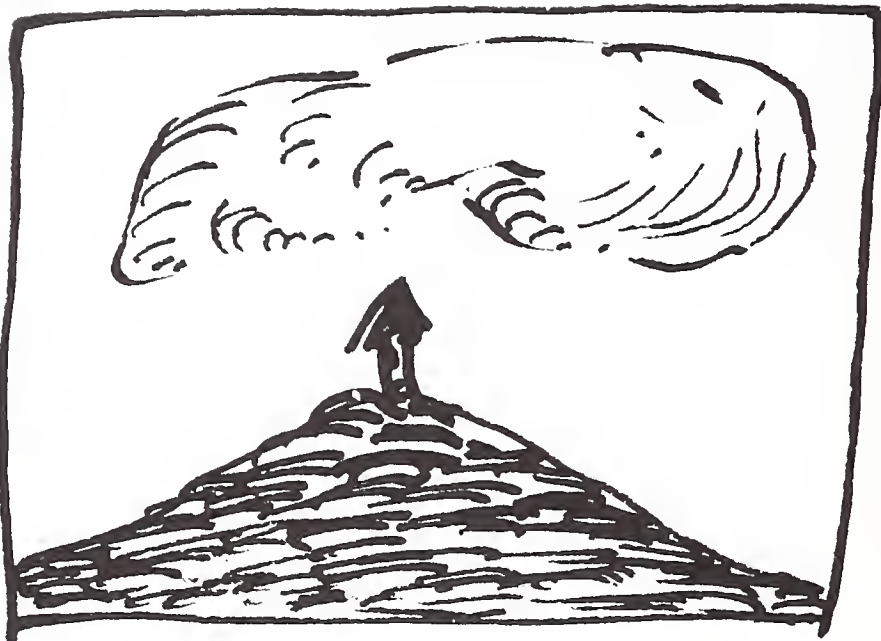
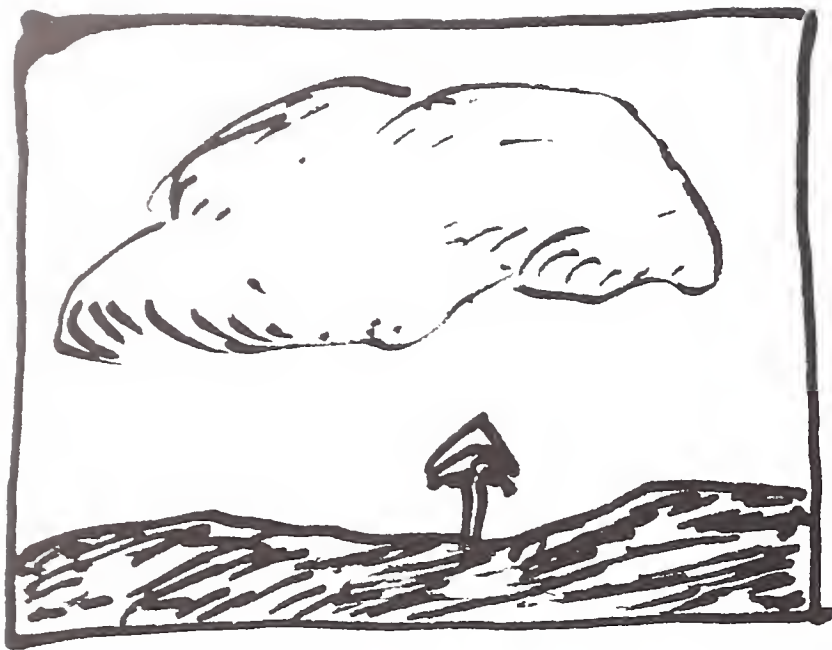




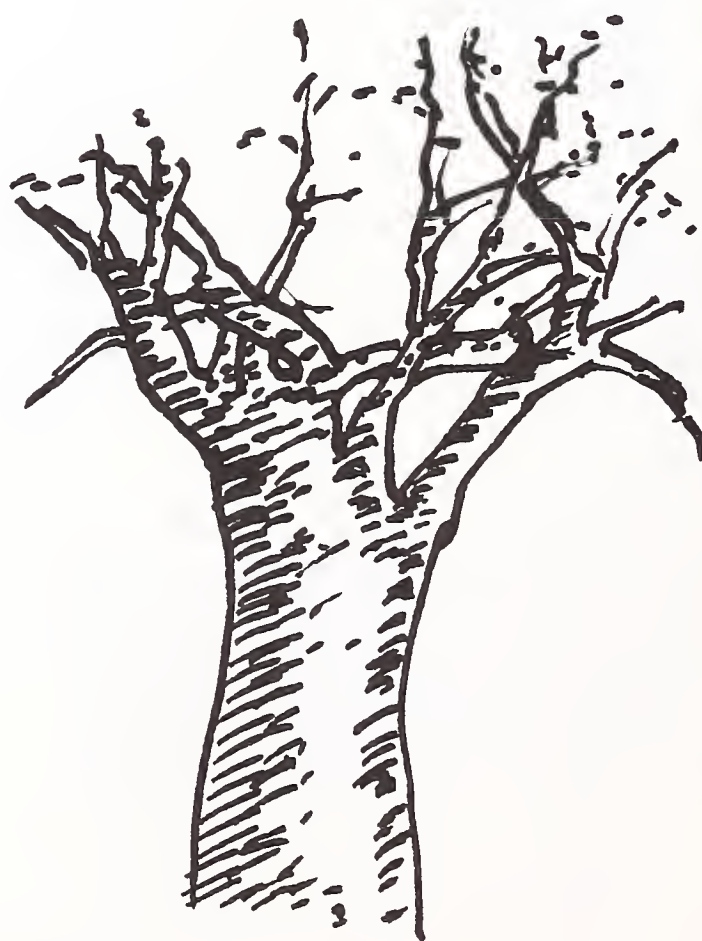
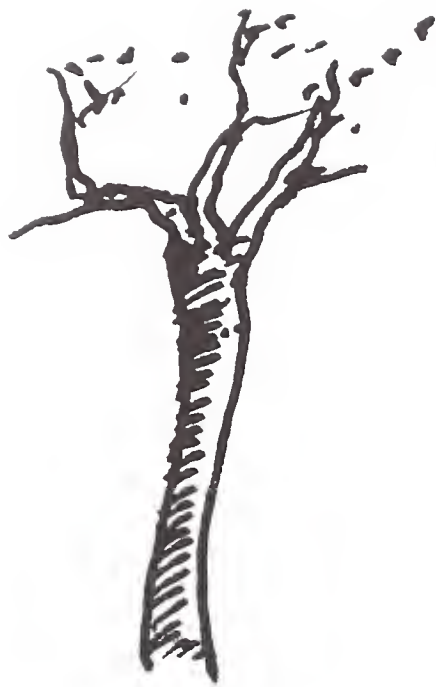
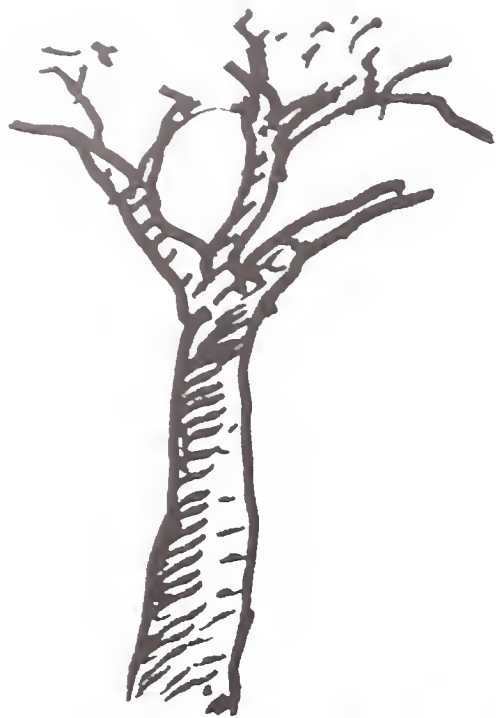




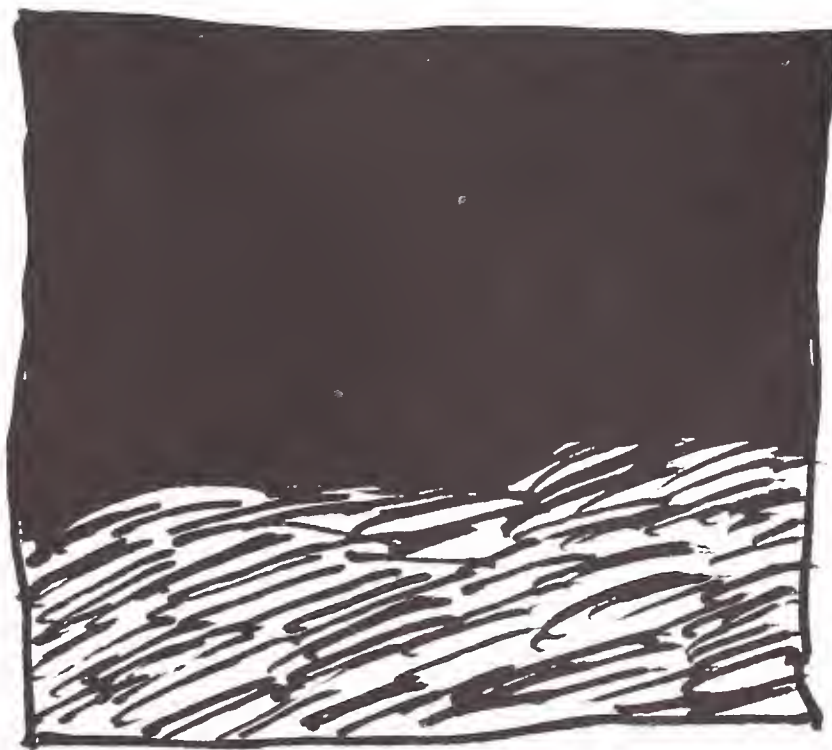
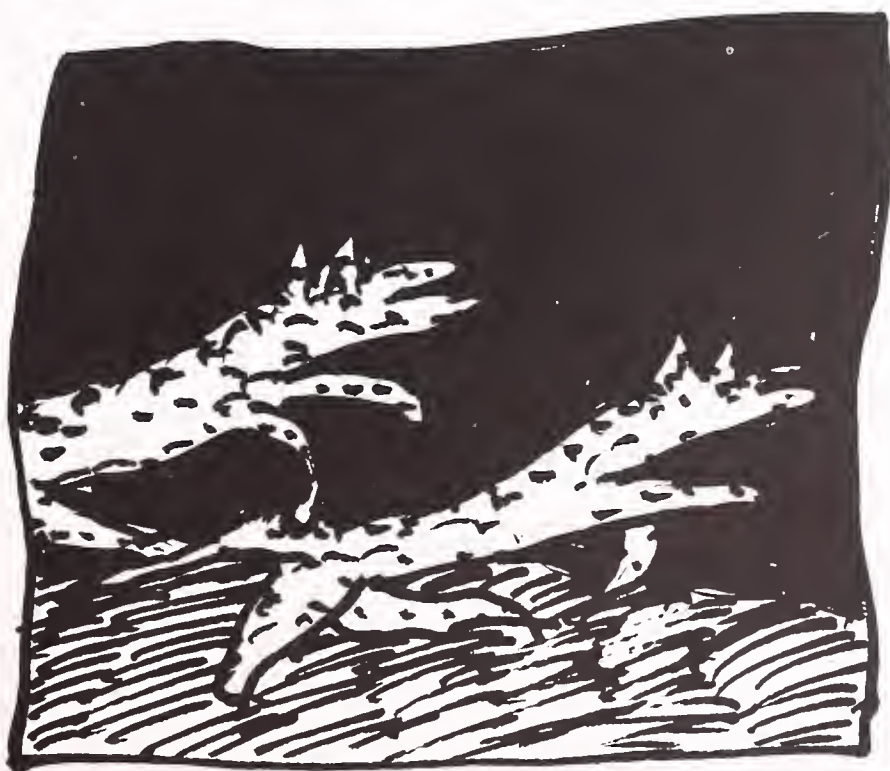
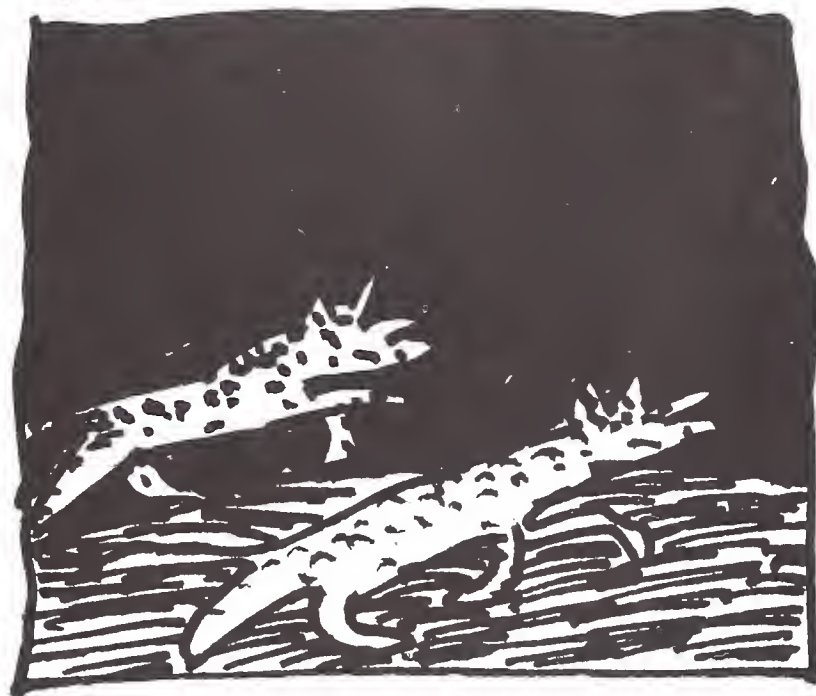
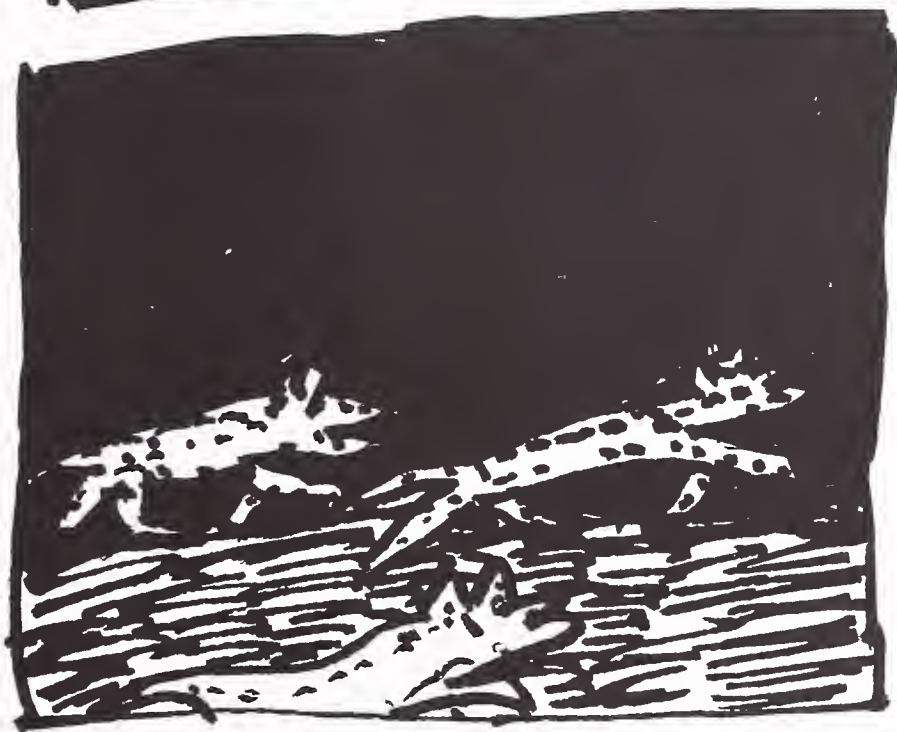
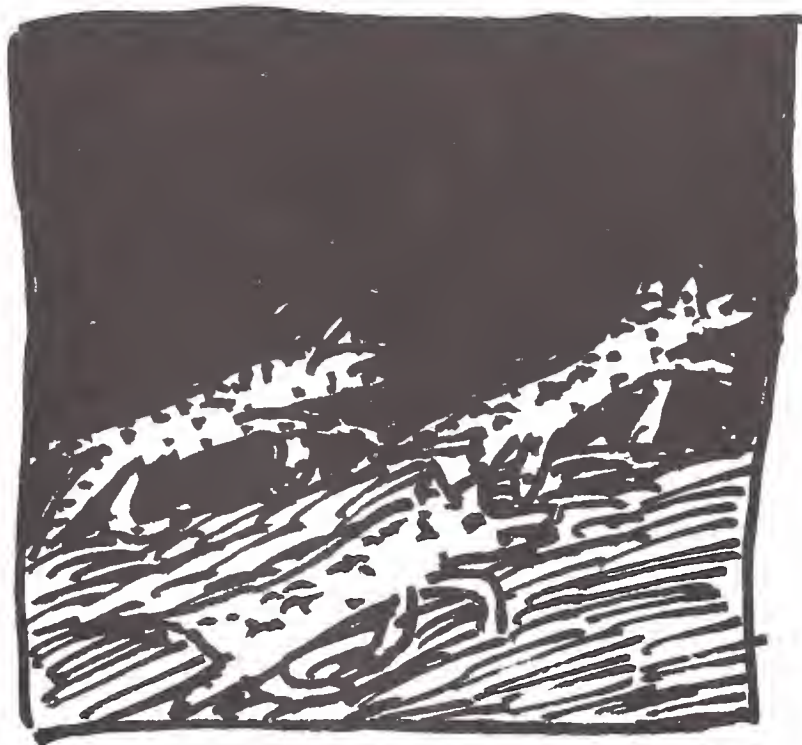
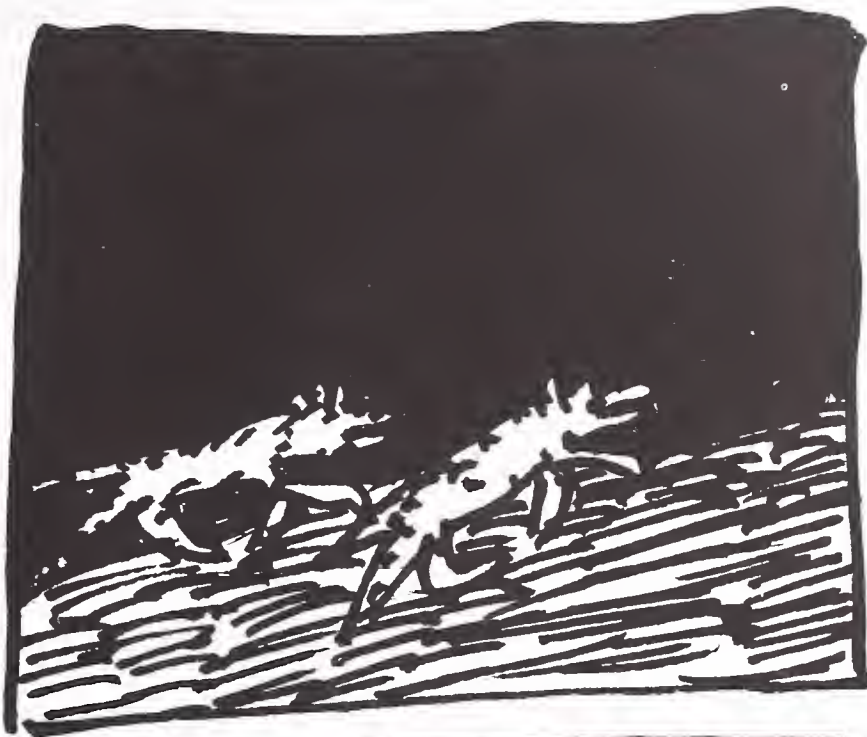






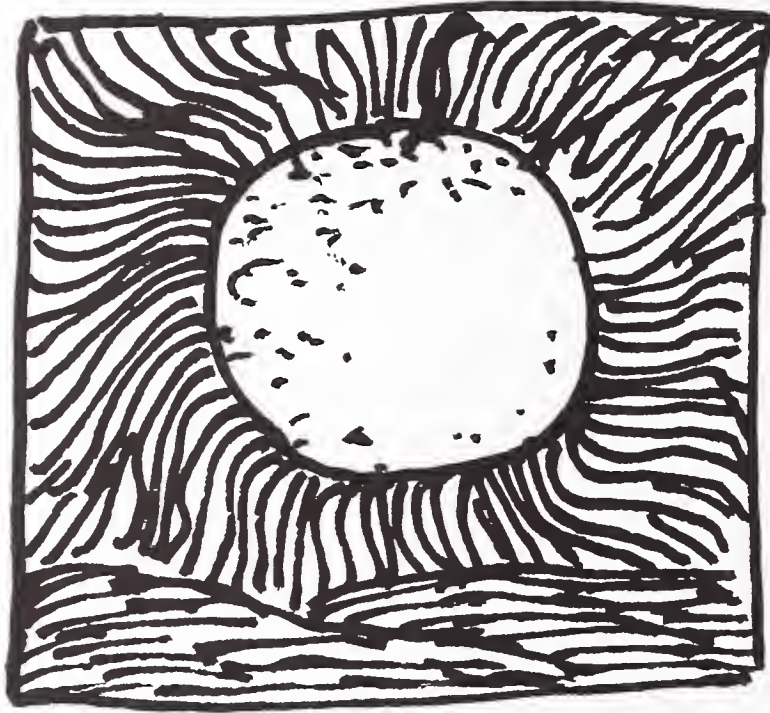


Darkness Oh!



Bread and Puppet

Glover Vermont



Acknowledgements special thanks to John Somerville for his play in four acts *The Crisis: The True Story About How the World Almost Ended*. **Colophon** 3500 copies have been printed offset at Magnani and McCormick in Enfield, Connecticut on Linweave Velvetsheen, Bright White Satin, text basis 100 with Linweave Linen Midnight Black, cover basis 80 & bound at The Stinehour Press in Lunenburg Vermont. 150 copies have been casebound at the Janus Press. The text is set in Trump Mediæval Roman, Italic and Bold

